## Lakeisha McNeal, The Exceptional Family Members Program Specialist, Army Community Services



Ms. Lakeisha McNeal has over 10 years of experience working as a civilian employee with military families, children, and youth. She has served thousands of families during her colorful career path.

First, she served as an Assistant Director/Director for Child & Youth Services, working for the Department of Defense at Ft. Moore. This is a sponsored childcare system that encompasses one of the largest youth developmental programs. For over 4 years she was part of a management team that positively impacted and influenced the lives of military families and their children daily.

Upon transitioning to Army Community Service, Ms. McNeal was positioned as an Exceptional Family Members Program Specialist. She has been serving in this position for over 6

years. This position has afforded her the opportunity to provide her services to a population with over 1500 Exceptional Family Members at Ft. Moore at any given time. Connecting families with the surrounding community support systems, matching them up with the individual special needs of parents and children can play a pivotal role with the challenges that may be faced. Being a Program Specialist contributes to providing effective connectivity, information awareness, competent training strategies and the opportunity for recreational supports. Ms. McNeal believes in promoting a resilient atmosphere while she continues to move forward with much determination and a commitment towards continued success.